GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3598
ANSWERED ON:16.04.2002
TRAFFICKING OF CHILDREN
SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the trafficking of children continue unabated and the trafficked children having been retrieved from different States all over the country;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether a pattern in trafficking of children from different States and their retrieval has emerged with some of the States like Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Orissa, Tamil Nadu cropping up more often than others;

(d) if so, the number of children retrived from each State during 1999, 2000 and 2001; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to prevent trafficking of children?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN)

(a),(b),(c),(d)&(e) A statement is annexed.

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF PART (a),(b),(c),(d) & (e) OF LOKSABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3598 FOR 16.4.20(REGARDING TRAFFICKING OF CHILDREN .

(a),(b),(c)&(d): Trafficking of children is an offence under the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act,1956 (ITPA), administered by the States/UTs. As per information readily available with us, in rescue operations in the Union Territory of Delhi between January 1, 2001 and 17th September, 2001, 143 girls have been rescued. Of these, 31 girls belonged to Andhra Pradesh; 12 each to Karnataka and Maharashtra; and 1 to Tamil Nadu. On the directions of the Delhi High Court, steps have been taken for their rehabilitation in consultation with respective State Governments.

(e): The Government has taken the following steps to prevent trafficking of children:

(i) Drawn up a National Plan of Action (1998) and constituted a Central Advisory Committee to combat trafficking, rescue and rehabilitate victims of trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation, and activate legal and law enforcement systems to strengthen implementation of the ITPA.

(ii) Set up State Advisory Committees on Trafficking for the same purpose, devolving authority and seeking to mobilize greater state resources in the fight against trafficking.

(iii) The Department of Women & Child Development (DWCD) hasissued guidelines to the States for effective implementation of the Plan of Action and regularly reviews State action.

(iv) The DWCD is presently reviewing the existing legal framework including the Immoral Trafficking (Prevention) Act

(v) DWCDhas undertaken regional efforts, in alliance with NGOs,to create greater awareness of the dimensions of trafficking and increase sensitivity to victims among Government departments, the police and judiciary, as well as within civil society at large.

(vi) The National Commission for Women is conducting active advocacy against trafficking in partnership with NGOs. It hasconducted 20 workshops all over the country and has prepared a comprehensive Report on the subject.

(vii) Concerned State Governments have enacted legislation to prohibit Devdasi and prevent Jogin traditions of sexual exploitation.

(viii) Profiling NGOs that are engaged in tackling trafficking and helping to rehabilitate victims.

(ix) The DWCD has initiated a new scheme called SWADHAR for womenin difficult situations applicable to victims of trafficking also. The Scheme provides for shelter, counselling, medical assistance, vocational training to rescued victims.

(x) DWCDhas formulated a model grant-in-aid scheme for assistance to NGOs to combat trafficking in source areas, traditional areas and destination areas through prevention, rescue and rehabilitation. Emphasis is placed on counselling, non-formal education and vocational training.

(xi) DWCDhas notified officers of the level of Inspector and above in the CBI as Trafficking Police Officers for investigation of inter-state trafficking cases.

(xii) The DWCD has proposed to the Ministry of Home Affairs to set up a nodal agency for combating and monitoring of trafficking.

(xiii) The NHRCand DWCD have initiateda Survey on trafficking within the country. The study will also investigate the causal and behavioral aspects of all agents in trafficking. The DWCD has also commissioned a Survey to go into the magnitude of the problem, an estimate of the numbers involved and trafficking routes.